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EXAMINER

KIM, PAUL

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/748,104	Applicant(s) CHONG, FAY	
	Examiner PAUL KIM	Art Unit 2161	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 June 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-6,8-15,17-20,22-29,31-34 and 36-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-6,8-15,17-20,22-29,31-34 and 36-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/14/08, 6/6/08</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office action is responsive to the following communication: Amendment filed on 2 June 2008.
2. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-15, 17-20, 22-29, 31-34 and 36-43 are pending and present for examination.

Response to Amendment

3. Claims 1, 15, 29, and 43 have been amended.
4. No claims have been further cancelled.
5. No claims have been newly added.

Information Disclosure Statement

6. The information disclosure statements (IDS) submitted on 14 March 2008 and 6 June 2008 are in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Specification

7. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:
 - a. Specification, paragraph [0043], is objected to as it discloses that a machine readable medium comprises "propagated signals", "carrier waves", "infrared signals", and "digital signals".

While it is proper to say that a transmission medium transmits data (including program code), it is not proper nor correct to say that a transmission medium "implements" code by the activity of transporting the code. Unlike a conventional data recording media, such as an optical or magnetic disk, which implements stored code as tangible (i.e., physical, structural) changes to the media, in the above language, the transmission does not "implement" stored code while the code is being transmitted.

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Examiner's Note: For example, in the case of an optical medium storing code the "implementing" of the code means that certain regions of the optical disk material have been tangibly (physically, structurally) altered so that these regions reflect laser light differently when they have stored a "0" rather than a "1". And, in the optical disk, a particular region is tangibly changed by the implementation process, for example, a write consists of a laser "burn" of that region to make a tangible difference in the media. However, in the case of a wired (or wireless) network path over which so-called "implemented" code is being transmitted, there is no tangible (physical, structural) change to the transmission media, whether air, space, optical fiber, or copper wire.

In the above language there is no equivalent process to the laser "burn" in relation to the transmission medium when a transmitted electromagnetic carrier wave transports embedded program code across a transmission path of a network. The transmission of program code across such a transmission medium is an entirely different process than the storage of program code in a storage medium because the transmission media does not experience any tangible, structural change by the process of transmission (or the so-called "implementation").

See *State Street*, 149 F.3d at 1373, 47 USPQ2d at 1601-02. MPEP 2106. "*The claimed invention as a whole must accomplish a practical application. That is, it must produce a 'useful, concrete and tangible result'*" (emphasis added).

In the above language,

- i. The claimed invention (program code being transported across a wireless medium) does not accomplish any useful, concrete and tangible result because the code does not tangibly, structurally alter the medium, and
- ii. The code has not functionality in the state of being transmitted because the embedded code cannot be executed as there does not exist any known processor able to execute the transmitted program code while in the process of being transmitted. Before the transmitted program code can be executed it must first be received and extracted from the transmission encoded carrier wave, and then stored on a suitable computer readable medium from which it can be executed by a processor as a functional part of a computer machine which includes the processor and the stored code. Until these steps are taken the transmitted program code has no program functionality, but instead, in the

transmitted state the transmitted code can only represent, or is equivalent to, non-functional descriptive material.

Therefore, the Specification erroneously asserts that program code being transmitted across a transmission medium somehow represents "implemented code." However, this is not true because the Specification does not teach details of how such an "implementation" makes any tangible (Physical, structural) alteration of the transmission media, or how the transmitted code can be executed by a processor while in the state of being transmitted. The state of the above language would require undue experimentation by one of ordinary skill in the art to read Applicant's disclosure and then to accomplish tangible implementation of the transmitted program code or to accomplish execution of the transmitted program code. Furthermore, notwithstanding that the transmitted code clearly is contained in the transmission medium (because it is transported through the medium), "contained" and "implemented" do not carry the same meaning.

Applicant's interpretation contradicts *State Street*, because first, when program code is being transmitted in any of the examples of transmission media listed above, no tangible (physical, structural) change has been made to the transmission media by the so-called "implementation" of the transmitted. Secondly, program code being transmitted cannot be executed by any known processor to perform any of the code's intended functionality, because in that state, the transmitted code remains nothing more than non-functional descriptive material.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

8. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

9. **Claims 15, 17-20, and 22-28** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

10. **Claims 15, 17-20, and 22-28** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The claims are directed toward "a machine readable medium" which "cause a machine to perform a method," and are non-statutory because they encompass subject matter and/or embodiments which do not fall within a statutory category.

The meaning of "a machine readable medium" as disclose in the Specification, paragraph [0043], covers non-statutory embodiments which improperly include network transmission lines (interpreted as wired and wireless transmission), wireless transmission media, signals propagating through space, radio waves, infrared signals, etc. For the aforementioned reasons discussed in the objections to the Specification, paragraph [0043], which are incorporated herein, the claimed invention does not properly cover only statutory subject matter (e.g., program code being transmitted over wired or wireless transmission media) because in such a case there is no tangible embodiment of program code in a computer readable medium executed by a processor, and further because the disclose program code being transmitted across the transmission media cannot be executed by any known processor. Therefore, the transmitted program code lacks functional capability because, absent execution, it cannot cause any of the claimed operations to be performed, and so, in the state of being transmitted, the program code represents nothing more than non-functional descriptive material. Moreover, under 35 U.S.C. § 101, signals propagating through space, radio waves, and infrared signals are not permissible "articles of manufacture" because they have no tangible embodiment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

11. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for

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purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

12. **Claims 1, 6, 11, 15, 20, 25, 29, 34, 39, and 43** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by DeKoning (U.S. Patent No. 6,691,245, hereinafter referred to as DeKoning), filed on 10 October 2000, and issued on 10 February 2004.

13. **As per independent claims 1, 15, 29, and 43**, DeKoning teaches:

A method for preserving data in a data storage system, the method comprising:

receiving a command to preserve data in the data storage system {See DeKoning, C8:L1-12, wherein this reads over "synchronization updates between the local and remote storage device 108 and 110 occur at predetermined periodic intervals"};

receiving a first data being written to a data block on a first storage volume prior to receiving the command {See DeKoning, C7:L63-66, wherein this reads over "all 'write' procedures to the local storage device 108 by the local host device 106 lead to synchronization updates to the remote storage device 110"};

determining whether the data block is stored on a first storage image, the first image being a copy on write snapshot of the first storage volume created in response to the command, the operation of determining based on indication information associated with the first storage image {See DeKoning, C7:L6-21, wherein this reads over "checkpoint information 116a is maintained with and correlated to the local volume 128 and its mirrored volume 132, and checkpoint information 116b is maintained with and correlated to the local volume 130 and its mirrored volume 134"};

writing the first data to the data block on the first storage image and a second storage image when the data block is stored on the first storage image {See DeKoning, C8:L13-17, wherein this reads over "[u]pon performing a synchronization update procedure between the local and remote storage devices 108 and 110, new data 152 from the host device 106 that is stored in local volume 128 is mirrored in mirrored volume 132"};

writing the first data to the data block on the second storage image when the data block is stored on a second image {See DeKoning, C8:L13-17, wherein this reads over "[u]pon performing a synchronization update procedure between the local and remote storage devices 108 and 110, new data 152 from the host device 106 that is stored in local volume 128 is mirrored in mirrored volume 132"}; and

wherein the data storage system is read/write accessible by at least one application and read/write access to the data storage system remains available by the at least one application during the data preservation {See DeKoning, C9:L10-C10:L37, wherein this reads over "[u]pon performing a fail-over procedure, data and information is exchanged between the business continuance client 115 (FIG. 1), the other client devices 104, the remote host device 109 and the remote storage device 110" and "[a]n exemplary checkpoint procedure 182 for periodically synchronizing stored data throughout the mirrored storage system"}.

14. **As per dependent claims 6, 20, and 34**, DeKoning teaches:

The method of claim 1, further comprising:

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receiving a second data being written to the data block on the second storage volume after receiving the command {See DeKoning, C9:L10-13, wherein this reads over "the client devices 104 (FIG. 1) switch from using the local host and storage devices . . . to using the remote host and storage devices . . . for primary data storage"};

determining whether the data block is stored on the first storage image or the second storage image {See DeKoning, C7:L6-21, wherein this reads over "checkpoint information 116a is maintained with and correlated to the local volume 128 and its mirrored volume 132, and checkpoint information 116b is maintained with and correlated to the local volume 130 and its mirrored volume 134"};

when the data block is stored on the second storage image, replicating the data block on the second storage image to the first storage image {See DeKoning, C9:L39-44, wherein this reads over "[t]he remote storage device 110 replaces the data in the affected data volumes 126 with the volume image"} and updating the indication information {See DeKoning, C9:L13-18, wherein this reads over "data and information is exchange between the business continuance client . . . the remote host device 109 and the remote storage device 110 according to the exemplary data flow chart show in FIG. 5"}; and

writing the second data to the data block on the second storage image {See DeKoning, C9:L10-13, wherein this reads over "the client devices 104 (FIG. 1) switch from using the local host and storage devices . . . to using the remote host and storage devices . . . for primary data storage"}.

15. **As per dependent claims 11, 25, and 39, DeKoning teaches:**

The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a request to read from a data block on the first storage volume {See DeKoning, C6:L63-65, wherein this reads over "The data volumes 124 are typically accessed by the local host device 106 (FIG. 1) according to access requests from the client devices 104 (FIG. 1). After failure of the local host and/or storage device 106 or 108 (FIG. 1), the data volumes 126 are typically accessed by the remote host device 109 according to the access requests from the client devices 104."};

determining whether the data block is stored on the first storage image or on the second storage image, based on indication information associated with the first storage image {See DeKoning, C6:L63-65, wherein this reads over "The data volumes 124 are typically accessed by the local host device 106 (FIG. 1) according to access requests from the client devices 104 (FIG. 1). After failure of the local host and/or storage device 106 or 108 (FIG. 1), the data volumes 126 are typically accessed by the remote host device 109 according to the access requests from the client devices 104."};

reading the data block from the first storage image if the data block is stored on the first storage image¹; and

¹ The Examiner notes that lines 6-9 of the claims present optionally recited language in that reading the data blocks from the first and second storage image only occur "if the data block is stored on the first storage image" and "if the data block is stored on the second storage image" respectively. Accordingly, since said optionally recited language lacks patentable weight, prior art references will not be applied for the purposes of this examination.

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reading the data block from the second storage image if the data block is stored on the second storage image.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

16. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

17. **Claims 3, 8, 17, 22, 31, and 36** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeKoning, in view of Arnon et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,493,796, hereinafter referred to as Arnon), filed on 1 September 1999, and issued on 10 December 2002.

18. **As per dependent claims 3, 17, and 31**, while DeKoning fails to expressly disclose the use of "a lookup table to determine whether there is an entry associated with the data block, the lookup table being associated with the first storage image," Arnon discloses a means for checking a table to see if there is a mirroring link operational for the mirroring group {See Arnon, Figures 4A-B and 5; and C17:L2-12, wherein this reads over "checking the mirroring link status flags in the table 402 associated with the mirroring group 107 in which the destination storage device 110 is included to determine whether at least one mirroring link 112 is operational for the mirroring group 108"} . Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the above invention suggested by DeKoning by combining it with the invention disclosed by Arnon. That is, the inclusion of the disclosed invention in Arnon would provide a means for determining whether the data block is stored on the first image.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this modification so that a lookup table may be utilized in the organization of data blocks and their corresponding storage images.

19. **As per dependent claims 8, 22, and 36**, while DeKoning fails to expressly disclose the use of "a lookup table to determine whether there is an entry associated with the data block, the lookup table

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being associated with the first storage image," Arnon discloses a means for checking a table to see if there is a mirroring link operational for the mirroring group {See Arnon, Figures 4A-B and 5; and C17:L2-12, wherein this reads over "checking the mirroring link status flags in the table 402 associated with the mirroring group 107 in which the destination storage device 110 is included to determine whether at least one mirroring link 112 is operational for the mirroring group 108"}. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the above invention suggested by DeKoning by combining it with the invention disclosed by Arnon. That is, the inclusion of the disclosed invention in Arnon would provide a means for determining whether the data block is stored on the first image.

Additionally, it is noted that the claims optionally recite the method step of "creating the entry associated with the data block" as the creation of said entry is only done "if the entry does not exist." Accordingly, for the purposes of this Office action, prior art will not applied to the aforementioned optional method step.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this modification so that a lookup table may be utilized in the organization of data blocks and their corresponding storage images.

20. **As per dependent claims 12, 26, and 40**, while DeKoning fails to expressly disclose the use of "a lookup table to determine whether there is an entry associated with the data block, the lookup table being associated with the first storage image," Arnon discloses a means for checking a table to see if there is a mirroring link operational for the mirroring group {See Arnon, Figures 4A-B and 5; and C17:L2-12, wherein this reads over "checking the mirroring link status flags in the table 402 associated with the mirroring group 107 in which the destination storage device 110 is included to determine whether at least one mirroring link 112 is operational for the mirroring group 108"}. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the above invention suggested by DeKoning by combining it with the invention disclosed by Arnon. That is, the inclusion of the disclosed invention in Arnon would provide a means for determining whether the data block is stored on the first image.

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Additionally, it is noted that the claims optionally recite the method step of "creating the entry associated with the data block" as the creation of said entry is only done "if the entry does not exist." Accordingly, for the purposes of this Office action, prior art will not applied to the aforementioned optional method step.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this modification so that a lookup table may be utilized in the organization of data blocks and their corresponding storage images.

21. **Claims 4, 9, 18, 23, 32, and 37** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeKoning, in view of Mutalik et al (U.S. Patent No. 7,149,787, hereinafter referred to as Mutalik), filed on 7 June 2001, and issued on 12 December 2006.

22. **As per dependent claims 4, 9, 18, 23, 32, and 37**, while DeKoning fails to expressly disclose the use of locks in storing data to a data block, Mutalik discloses a means for acquiring and releasing a lock {See Mutalik, C14:L47-57, wherein this reads over a implementations of a read-lock and a write-lock"}. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the above invention suggested by DeKoning by combining it with the invention disclosed by Mutalik. That is, the inclusion of the disclosed invention in Mutalik would provide a means for locking the second storage image for write purposes.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this modification so that other processes and/or users may not access the data block while a write process is underway such that the data block may not be erroneously corrupted by said other processes and/or users.

23. **Claims 13, 27, and 41** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeKoning, in view of Arnon, and in further view of Mutalik.

24. **As per dependent claims 13, 27, and 41**, while DeKoning and Arnon fail to expressly disclose the use of locks in storing data to a data block, Mutalik discloses a means for acquiring and releasing a lock {See Mutalik, C14:L47-57, wherein this reads over a implementations of a read-lock and a write-lock"}. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the above inventions suggested by DeKoning and Arnon by combining it with the

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invention disclosed by Mutalik. That is, the inclusion of the disclosed invention in Mutalik would provide a means for locking the second storage image for write purposes.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this modification so that other processes and/or users may not access the data block while a write process is underway such that the data block may not be erroneously corrupted by said other processes and/or users.

25. **Claims 5, 10, 14, 19, 24, 28, 33, 38, and 42** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeKoning, in view of Mutalik, and in further view of Official Notice.

26. **As per dependent claims 5, 10, 14, 19, 24, 28, 33, 38, and 42**, while DeKoning and Mutalik fail to expressly disclose that "the lock mechanism is maintained independent to the first and the second storage images," the Examiner takes Official Notice that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have said lock mechanism be separate and independent from the first and second storage images. That is, one of ordinary skill in the art would ably recognize that having an independent lock mechanism such that the lock mechanism not take part in the backup operation.

Response to Arguments

27. Applicant's arguments filed 2 June 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

b. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102

Applicant asserts the argument that DeKoning fails to teach amended claim limitation of "the data storage system is read/write accessible by at least one application and read/write access to the data storage system remains available by the at least one application during the data preservation." See Amendment, page 10. The Examiner disagrees. While DeKoning discloses "the local host device 106, quiesces, or suspends, any applications running on the local host device," the Examiner notes that the checkpoint procedure 182 which is initiated by the local host device during the synchronization process may be considered an application. See DeKoning, C9:L63-C10:L14. That is, said checkpoint procedure (i.e. the application) is used to update the

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affected data volumes by forwarding the checkpoint information such that said checkpoint information may be written accordingly. Therefore, it is noted that DeKoning discloses at least one application (i.e. the checkpoint procedure) wherein read/write access to the data storage system remains available (i.e. reading and writing updates to snapshots).

Accordingly, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 are sustained.

Conclusion

28. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

29. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PAUL KIM whose telephone number is (571)272-2737. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Apu Mofiz can be reached on (571) 272-4080. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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